

all-of-the-above approach taken in the American Energy Innovation Act, we can produce clean alternative energy without breaking the bank of American families.

Why do I think that? Because to address our energy demand we need look no further than Kansas.

From the nuclear plant in Burlington, wind farms in Pottawatomie County, biodiesel produced from crops grown in Kansas, we do it all there. All we ask is to be allowed to do it.

#### POLAND AND THE VISA WAIVER PROGRAM

(Mr. QUIGLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, Poland has proven to be an indispensable ally in the global campaign against terrorism. Poland demonstrated its commitment to global security by becoming a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and has been a staunch ally to the United States during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Poland has been a valuable member state of the European Union, joining several other member states like France and Germany that take advantage of the visa waiver program. Poland unilaterally repealed a visa requirement for United States citizens traveling to Poland.

I strongly believe that the United States should extend the visa waiver program, with its enhanced program security requirement, and extend visa-free privileges to Poland, a country that has proven its steadfast dedication to the cause of freedom and friendship with the United States.

Poland has done much for the United States. Now it is our time to repay this great country.

#### HAZY POLITICAL CLIMATE

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the State of Texas is caught in the crosshairs of a green movement hostile and detrimental to our energy industries. Texas produces 1 million barrels of oil every day, or 20 percent of the U.S. production. We're also home to refineries that produce one-quarter of the country's gasoline and also produce oil by-products for plastics.

The new cap-and-trade tax will destroy thousands of Texas jobs, and the Congressional Budget Office says that the tax on energy won't even help the climate. No matter, the taxacrats in Washington want to punish red energy State voters by nailing them with the new disastrous tax on energy consumption.

In the name of saving planet Earth, the government barons are trying to push us to so-called "green" energy sources that don't even exist yet. Green energy that will support this

country's needs is at least 10 years away.

The immediate solution right in front of us is expanding our own oil and gas production while we develop these new technologies. That will create jobs, keep money in America, and make us less dependent on foreign oil. But that logic is lost in the hazy political climate of Washington.

And that's just the way it is.

#### THINK ABOUT THIS

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KUCINICH. America's manufacturing base is being decimated, but it's not only happening because of economic trends in our country.

Yes, our gross domestic product has fallen off. Yes, we have a massive trade deficit. But this week when GM filed for bankruptcy—GM was pushed into bankruptcy, and when they were pushed into bankruptcy, we also lost 14 manufacturing plants, 21,000 jobs, and 2,400 dealerships are going to be closed.

Think about this. If we take away this manufacturing infrastructure of manufacturing and dealerships and suppliers, what happens when our economy comes back? We will have permanently altered our ability to produce cars in this country.

I want the Members of Congress to consider this when you think about this administration's auto task force. It hasn't gone the right way for the American worker, it's not going the right way for American manufacturing, and it's not going the right way for the American economy.

#### ENERGY SHELL GAME

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. The national energy tax has moved its way out of the Energy and Commerce Committee. It's called the cap-and-trade, and what it means is everyone pays more for the use of fossil fuels.

This is what happened in Illinois when we passed the last Clean Air Act amendments; 14,000 miners lost their jobs. In the State of Ohio, 35,000 miners lost their jobs.

What is the solution? An all-of-the-above energy policy that talks about the Outer Continental Shelf, brings on energy from coal, does renewable coal, does renewable wind and solar and renewable fuels like ethanol and biodiesel. We can produce the energy needs for this country right here in this country.

The national energy tax, this cap-and-trade shell game, will not do it. It will only destroy this country.

#### GUNS IN NATIONAL PARKS

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, just before we went into the last recess, we passed much-needed, overdue legislation relating to credit card abuse. That was a good, responsible thing to do. But in the process of doing that, this Congress did something that was grossly irresponsible. We passed legislation enabling anyone who wants to bring a loaded, concealed firearm onto national parks, so that the hundreds of thousands of American families who would like to enjoy our parks safe in the knowledge that their families are secure from the threat of wanton violence can no longer have that sense of security.

A particularly egregious case in point is the Wolf Trap Center for the Performing Arts, a national treasure. Any number of performing artists are now informing Wolf Trap that they do not want to go to Wolf Trap because their lives are endangered by this legislation.

It's time to fix this legislation, provide for the security of the American people, and not the profit of the National Rifle Association.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN MCHUGH

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our friend and colleague, JOHN MCHUGH, who was nominated by President Obama to be the next Secretary of the Army.

I have had the pleasure to work with JOHN on a number of different issues pertaining to our military and their families. I have always been grateful for his leadership on the House Armed Services Committee and, in particular, his role as the ranking member on the committee promoting military personnel.

JOHN brings a lifetime of military knowledge and experience which will serve him, our soldiers, and our Nation well. He is committed fully to our servicemembers, and he understands how particularly vital the families of our military are to ensuring a strong national defense.

I know JOHN will be passionate as an advocate for our military families as Secretary of the Army, as he has been in Congress for the last 16 years. I saw firsthand his appreciation of our troops when he toured Fort Jackson, South Carolina, last year.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th.

#### MEDIA IGNORE NEGATIVE STORIES ABOUT SOTOMAYOR

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)